
U.S. Department of Justice



United States Attorney's Office Eastern District of Virginia

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 2, 2006

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Educator, Hoffler-Riddick Receives Prison Sentence

(**Newport News, VA**) Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced today the sentencing of Pamela Hoffler-Riddick on charges of conspiracy to launder money in connection with a major drug trafficking organization in Norfolk, Virginia. Hoffler-Riddick was sentenced on the charge of conspiracy to launder money to 78 months imprisonment.

Hoffler-Riddick was indicted on January 14, 2005, by a federal grand jury in Newport News, Virginia. The 324-count indictment charged 31 individuals with importing large quantities of controlled substances into the United States; distributing the controlled substances; the laundering of millions of dollars in drug proceeds; and criminal forfeiture, which included the seizure of substantial financial assets.

On September 26, 2005, prosecutors began their case against Hoffler-Riddick, age 43, of Rockville, Maryland on charges of conspiracy to launder money and three substantive charges of money laundering. On October 14, 2005, the jury convicted Hoffler-Riddick of all charges. U.S. District Judge Walter D. Kelley, subsequently dismissed the substantive money laundering charges against Hoffler-Riddick, but let stand the conspiracy charge. The evidence included: Hoffler-Riddick purchasing a vehicle in February 1998 for convicted drug dealer Aaron Burton (Burton is serving a life sentence); traveling with co-conspirator John McBride in February 1999 to deliver 3 kilograms of cocaine to Burton; directing a person whom she employed in May 1999 to purchase \$10,000 in official bank checks so that Burton could purchase property on Center Street in Hampton, Virginia; receiving compensation in May 2000 for her assistance in the money laundering scheme in the amount of \$6,560; purchasing

\$20,000 in money orders and an official bank check in November 2000 so that Burton could purchase property on Pembroke Avenue in Hampton, Virginia; and receiving approximately \$30,000 in United States currency in March 2003 from McBride who was entertaining Burton at Hoffler-Riddick's Maryland home. Finally, after indictment, Hoffler-Riddick sent an e-mail to a witness in an attempt to persuade the witness to testify falsely at trial.

Numerous law enforcement agencies assisted in the long-term investigation. Those agencies include: the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division, the Peninsula Narcotics Enforcement Task Force, which is comprised of officers from the Hampton, Newport News, and Poquoson Police Departments and the Virginia State Police. Also assisting in the investigation were officers from the Henrico County and City of Norfolk Police Departments.

Assistant United States Attorney Lisa McKeel and Assistant United States Attorney Eric Hurt were the prosecutors in this case.

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